

# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson  
 Ellen Nowak, Commissioner  
 Tyler Huebner, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way  
 P.O. Box 7854  
 Madison, WI 53707-7854

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
 RECEIVED: 09/03/2021 1:05:00 PM

September 3, 2021

Ms. Barbara Zanella, City Treasurer  
 Ashland Water Utility  
 601 Main Street West  
 Ashland, WI 54806

Re: Application of the City of Ashland, Ashland County, 250-TW-100  
 Wisconsin, as a Water Public Utility, for Tariff Changes

Dear Ms. Zanella:

On June 3, 2021, the Ashland Water Utility (Utility) submitted a request to change its billing frequency from monthly to bimonthly. ([PSC REF#: 413094](#).) On August 12, 2021, the Utility informed the Commission of the date it intends to make the new bimonthly rates effective. ([PSC REF#: 418687](#).)

Commission staff reviewed the Utility's request and considered that moving to bimonthly billing will allow the Utility to better manage delinquent accounts by giving customers additional time to make payment arrangements and reduce the frequency of penalties, and save on printing and mailing costs. The Commission finds the Utility's request to change its billing frequency from monthly to bimonthly to be just and reasonable.

Accordingly, Commission staff revised Schedules F-1, Upf-1, Mg-1, and Ug-1 to allow for the billing frequency change. Copies of the new schedules are attached for reference. The new tariff sheets have been filed at the Commission under Amendment 31 with an effective date of November 29, 2021.

Please note that the Utility shall make these tariff changes available to the public at locations where customer payments are accepted, on the Utility's website, or in a form and place that is otherwise readily accessible to the public, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 196.19. If copies of the new tariffs are not made available to the public by one day before the effective date, the new tariff provisions shall take effect one day after the date they are made available to the public.

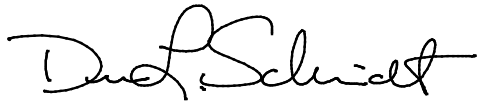
Please update the Utility's current tariff by inserting printed copies of the new tariff sheets into the current tariff books. Mark any old rates as "Superseded" and keep them permanently in a separate file pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § 185.19. The Utility's current rates and rules must be available for public inspection and review at all of the Utility's bill payment stations and at area libraries, pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § 185.22.

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This filing is made with the understanding that it does not result in an unauthorized rate increase or service restriction. Additionally, as required by Wis. Stat. § 196.60, the provisions of the filing shall be applied in a non-discriminatory manner.

If the Utility has any questions, please contact Public Utility Rate Analyst Andrew Fisher at 608-266-3905 or via email at [Andrew.Fisher@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Andrew.Fisher@wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise L. Schmidt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Denise" and last name "Schmidt" clearly legible.

Denise L. Schmidt  
Administrator  
Division of Water Utility Regulation and Analysis

DLS:alf:ajh:krl DL:01827377

cc: Brant Kucera, City Administrator  
John Butler, Director of Public Works  
Chanz Green, Ashland Water and Wastewater Superintendent  
Julie Vaillancourt, Finance Director

Docket 250-TW-100

**Ashland Water Utility**  
**Water Rate File Changes**

**Amended**

F-1  
Upf-1  
Mg-1  
Ug-1

**Public Service Commission of Wisconsin**

**Ashland Water Utility**

**Public Fire Protection Service**

Public fire protection service shall include the use of hydrants for fire protection service only and such quantities of water as may be demanded for the purpose of extinguishing fires within the service area. This service shall also include water used for testing equipment and training personnel. For all other purposes, the metered or other rates set forth, or as may be filed with the Public Service Commission shall apply.

Under Wis. Stat. § 196.03(3)(b), the municipality has chosen to have the utility bill the retail general service customers for public fire protection service.

**Bi-Monthly Public Fire Protection Service Charges:**

5/8 - inch meter:	\$ 20.40	3 - inch meter:	\$ 306.00
3/4 - inch meter:	\$ 20.40	4 - inch meter:	\$ 510.20
1 - inch meter:	\$ 51.00	6 - inch meter:	\$ 1,020.40
1 1/4 - inch meter:	\$ 75.60	8 - inch meter:	\$ 1,632.40
1 1/2 - inch meter:	\$ 102.00	10 - inch meter:	\$ 2,448.80
2 - inch meter:	\$ 163.20	12 - inch meter:	\$ 3,265.00

Customers who are provided service under Schedules Mg-1, Ug-1, or Sg-1 shall also be subject to the charges in this schedule according to the size of their primary meter.

Under Wis. Stat. § 196.03(3)(b), the City of Ashland has elected to make the charges in this schedule applicable to non-general service customers who own property that is located both within the municipal limits and in an area where the utility has an obligation to provide water for public fire protection. Each parcel shall be billed at the 5/8-inch meter rate under this schedule.

Billing: Same as Schedule Mg-1.

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**Ashland Water Utility**

**Private Fire Protection Service - Unmetered**

This service shall consist of permanent or continuous unmetered connections to the main for the purpose of supplying water to private fire protection systems such as automatic sprinkler systems, standpipes, and private hydrants. This service shall also include reasonable quantities of water used for testing check valves and other backflow prevention devices.

**Bi-Monthly Private Fire Protection Service Demand Charges:**

2 - inch or smaller connection:	\$	30.00
3 - inch connection:	\$	56.00
4 - inch connection:	\$	94.00
6 - inch connection:	\$	188.00
8 - inch connection:	\$	302.00
10 - inch connection:	\$	452.00
12 - inch connection:	\$	660.00
14 - inch connection:	\$	754.00
16 - inch connection:	\$	1,018.00

Billing: Same as Schedule Mg-1.

**Public Service Commission of Wisconsin**

**Ashland Water Utility**

**General Service - Metered**

Bi-Monthly Service Charges:

5/8 - inch meter:	\$ 24.30	3 - inch meter:	\$ 103.00
3/4 - inch meter:	\$ 24.30	4 - inch meter:	\$ 144.20
1 - inch meter:	\$ 32.54	6 - inch meter:	\$ 225.44
1 1/4 - inch meter:	\$ 41.20	8 - inch meter:	\$ 317.24
1 1/2 - inch meter:	\$ 49.44	10 - inch meter:	\$ 438.78
2 - inch meter:	\$ 70.04	12 - inch meter:	\$ 558.26

Plus Volume Charges:

All water used bi-monthly: \$5.31 per 100 cubic feet

Billing: Bills for water service are rendered bi-monthly and become due and payable upon issuance following the period for which service is rendered. A late payment charge of 1 percent per month will be added to bills not paid within 20 days of issuance. This late payment charge will be applied to the total unpaid balance for utility service, including unpaid late payment charges. The late payment charge is applicable to all customers. The utility customer may be given a written notice that the bill is overdue no sooner than 20 days after the bill is issued. Unless payment or satisfactory arrangement for payment is made within the next 10 days, service may be disconnected pursuant to Wis. Adm. Code ch. PSC 185.

Combined Metering: For a residential customer with more than one meter on a single service lateral, volumetric reading from all meters shall be combined for billing. For a nonresidential customer, volumetric readings may be combined for billing if the utility for its own convenience places more than one meter on a single water service lateral. Multiple meters placed for the purpose of identifying water not discharged into the sanitary sewer are not considered for utility convenience and may not be combined for billing. This requirement does not preclude the utility from combining readings where metering configurations support such an approach. Volumetric readings from individually metered separate service laterals may not be combined for billing purposes.

**Public Service Commission of Wisconsin**

**Ashland Water Utility**

**General Water Service - Unmetered**

Service may be supplied temporarily on an unmetered basis where the utility cannot immediately install a water meter, including water used for construction. Unmetered service shall be billed the amount that would be charged to a metered residential customer using 800 cubic feet of water bi-monthly under Schedule Mg-1, including the service charge for a 5/8-inch meter. If the utility determines that actual usage exceeds 800 cubic feet of water bi-monthly, an additional charge for the estimated excess usage shall be made according to the rates under Schedule Mg-1.

This schedule applies only to customers with a 1-inch or smaller service connection. For customers with a larger service connection, the utility shall install a temporary meter and charges shall be based on the rates set forth under Schedule Mg-1.

Billing: Same as Schedule Mg-1.